

Youth Access to Tobacco



What is Youth Access to Tobacco?

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which recently gained regulatory authority over tobacco, and the Centers for Disease Control, advocate for adopting and restricting youth access to tobacco products. For more information, please visit www.fda.gov/tobacco.

Facts

- More than 80 percent of youth smokers continue their tobacco addiction into adulthood, suffering the consequences of poor health, high cancer risk and a shorter life span. Recently, illegal purchase of tobacco by minors under the age of 18 is on the rise.
- According to the 2008 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey on Tobacco and Health, 44.7 percent of high school students who smoke were not asked for proof of age, and 60.7 percent of underage high school students who tried were able to buy cigarettes.
- Tobacco use is the most preventable cause of death in the United States, kills more than 400,000 Americans and costs \$96 billion in health care each year.

Local Efforts

The Tobacco Education and Prevention Partnership (TEPP) in El Paso County, Colorado, earned a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment to address youth access to tobacco as part of a comprehensive, evidence-based approach to increase tobacco prevention and cessation.

TEPP is partnering with local leaders, decision makers and concerned citizens to affect policy change in the cities of Fountain and Manitou Springs. Efforts will focus on limiting access to tobacco products and minimizing exposure to tobacco advertising by youth.

“Colorado is one of a handful of states that does not license tobacco retailers and does not restrict point-of-purchase tobacco advertising.”

**- Colorado Department
of Public Health and Environment**

For more information, please contact:

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